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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/596,639

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Michel Guillon

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EXAMINER

ANDERSON, CATHARINE L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3764

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/16/2011

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

uspatents@senniger.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/596,639	Applicant(s) GUILLON ET AL.	
	Examiner LYNNE ANDERSON	Art Unit 3764	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 June 2011.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on ____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.
- 4) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 42-56 and 72-81 is/are pending in the application.
- 5a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 81 is/are allowed.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 42-56 and 72-80 is/are rejected.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 9) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 10) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 20 June 2011 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
2. In response to the Applicant's argument that the interpretation of the present claims is too narrow, it is noted that the Examiner is applying a broader interpretation of the term "obstruct" than the Applicant argues. The Applicant argues that since the term "obstruct" is defined as "to hinder from passage, action, or operation", one of ordinary skill in the art would not interpret the term as meaning that vision is not completely removed. However, the definition cited by the Applicant is "to hinder from ... operation." The gradations shown by Refojo in figure 3 are very small relative to the open, transparent area of the goggles. The gradations would not prevent one wearing the goggles from seeing through the goggles, and therefore the operation of the goggles is not hindered. If the markings of Refojo were larger, or a significant portion of the goggle was rendered opaque, then the vision of the wearer may be obstructed. Since the gradations do not provide a tangible obstruction to the vision of the wearer of the goggles, under the broadest reasonable interpretation of the claim language (i.e. the term 'obstruct' being defined as "to hinder from ... operation"), the goggles of Refojo fulfill the claimed limitations.
3. In response to the Applicant's argument that the claimed eye chamber that provides an enclosed area about both eyes provides specific advantages, it is noted that these arguments do not show any unexpected results stemming from the

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configuration of the eye chamber. Eye chambers that surround both eyes at once are known in the art (as taught, for example, by Schwebel), and the Applicant has not shown how the combination of this configuration with the other claimed structural limitations leads to any unexpected results or satisfies any long-felt need.

4. In response to the Applicant's argument that the arrangement of Refojo is used in a very different procedure than the present invention, it is noted that the present claims are drawn to an apparatus and not a method of use. Since the apparatus of Refojo, as modified by Schwebel, fulfills the structural limitations of the present claims, it anticipates the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 42-56 and 72-80 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Refojo et al. (4,461,303) in view of Schwebel (6,641,264).

7. Refojo discloses an apparatus which is capable of providing a dry environment around the eyes of a user, comprising an eye enclosure 12, as shown in figure 3. The apparatus further comprises means for retaining the enclosure in position, strap 40, and means for supplying dry air to the enclosure, as disclosed in column 2, lines 35-37. The eye enclosure 12 comprises a transparent material, as disclosed in column 5, lines 40-

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41, and therefore the patient is able to see through the enclosure (i.e. the enclosure does not obstruct vision).

8. Refojo discloses all aspects of the claimed invention with the exception of the eye enclosure providing an enclosed area about both eyes simultaneously. Schwebel teaches an apparatus for treating eyes, as shown in figure 1, comprising an eye enclosure that covers both eyes simultaneously. This configuration allows both eyes to be treated at the same time.

9. It would therefore be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to provide the apparatus of Refojo with an eye enclosure that covers both eyes simultaneously, as taught by Schwebel, to achieve the predictable result of allowing both eyes to be treated at the same time.

10. With respect to claim 43, the humidity of the air provided is less than 40%, as disclosed in column 6, lines 18-20.

11. With respect to claims 44 and 47, Refojo, as modified by Schwebel, discloses all aspects of the claimed invention with the exception of the dry air being generated by passing the air across a desiccant or condensation coils, and the wet air being passed through water. Refojo discloses providing conditioned air of a predetermined relative humidity from supply 32, as described in column 7, lines 25-35, but remains silent as to how the air is generated. The use of desiccants and condensation coils are well-known in the art for reducing the humidity of air. Likewise, passing air through water is known to increase the humidity of the air. It would therefore have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention for the air supply of Refojo to produce dry

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air using desiccants or condensation coils, and to produce wet air by passing the air through water, to achieve the predictable result of producing air of the desired humidity.

12. With respect to claim 45, the dry air is pumped to the eye enclosure, as disclosed in column 2, lines 35-37.

13. With respect to claim 46, dry air and wet air are mixed in the enclosure to achieve the desired level of dryness, as disclosed in column 3, lines 28-34, and column 6, lines 20-23.

14. With respect to claims 48-49, the apparatus further comprises means for measuring the humidity of the air and means for adjusting the mixture so the desired level of humidity is achieved, as disclosed in column 5, lines 16-17, and column 6, lines 20-23.

15. With respect to claim 50, the dry air is mixed with wet air within conduit 28 prior to being supplied to the eye enclosure, and therefore conduit 28 functions as a mixing chamber.

16. With respect to claim 51, the means for supplying dry air allows for equal air flow to each eye that is wearing the apparatus.

17. With respect to claim 52, the eye enclosure 12 covers the eye and has a head strap 40, and therefore is considered goggles.

18. With respect to claim 53, Refojo discloses all aspects of the claimed invention with the exception of the goggles having two chambers, one to cover each eye. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to provide

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the apparatus of Refojo with two chambers to achieve the predictable result of being able to test both eyes at the same time.

19. With respect to claim 54, Refojo discloses all aspects of the claimed invention with the exception of the goggles being made of plastic. Refojo discloses in column 5, lines 32-34 and 40-41, that the goggles have a similar construction to swimmer's goggles, and are made of a transparent material. Swimmer's goggles are well-known to be formed of plastic in order to provide a water-tight, transparent eye chamber. It would therefore be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to make the goggles of Refojo from plastic, to achieve the predictable result of providing a water-tight, transparent eye chamber.

20. With respect to claim 55, the apparatus is capable of being transported, and is therefore portable.

21. With respect to claim 56, the apparatus further comprises means for adjusting the temperature of the air, as disclosed in column 6, lines 4-7.

22. With respect to claims 72-80, the apparatus comprises all the physical limitations of the present claims, and is fully capable of being used in testing different items or for different conditions.

Allowable Subject Matter

23. Claim 81 is allowed.

Conclusion

24. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LYNNE ANDERSON whose telephone number is (571)272-4932. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, LoAn Thanh can be reached on (571) 272-4966. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Lynne Anderson/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3764